

FISCAL NOTE

HB 898 - SB 916

March 6, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides that if a classroom teacher has taken the state teacher's examination on at least three occasions without a passing score, but such teacher's instructional skills and performance have been found to be exceptional by a locally-appointed LEA committee and the Director of Schools recommends state licensure based on such teacher's outstanding skills, then the State Board of Education is authorized to award a state license without a passing score on the state teacher's examination. However, prior to issuing any such license or conditional license, the State Board may require the LEA committee, the LEA director or the teacher to personally appear before the State Board or a committee thereof in order to submit to questioning.

Under present law, prospective teachers must pass examinations measuring professional knowledge and knowledge of the desired area of endorsement/subject matter before obtaining teaching licenses. If candidates meet certain conditions, which include unsuccessful attempts to pass the tests, the department may allow extra time and special accommodations for test takers. Presently, graduates of approved teacher preparation programs who have met all other conditions but who have not achieved passing scores on a required exam may teach up to two years on an Interim B license, issued by the Department of Education.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes:

- The bill only applies to teachers currently teaching in Tennessee classrooms on Interim B licenses.
- Since Interim B licensed teachers already teach and earn full-time salaries in LEAs across the state, granting these persons apprentice licenses would not affect state or local expenditures for salary.
- LEAs could reduce recruiting and hiring costs associated with replacing Interim B teachers who are unable to successfully matriculate into apprentice teachers and continue to teach. The local evaluation process would aid the district in screening out teachers who are not performing well in the classroom. However, it is assumed that any local cost savings would likely be insignificant given the relatively small number of Interim B licensed teachers compared to the total teaching force.
- LEAs could incur additional costs in determining Interim B teachers to be *exceptional*. It is assumed that the LEAs would design evaluation methods and utilize active personnel to evaluate each teacher for whom it wishes to request a license under the provisions of the bill. It is assumed that these costs would also be insignificant based on the relatively small number of Interim B teachers compared to the total number of teachers statewide.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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